United Nations

Daily Highlights

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WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council authorizes multinational force for Rwanda to provide security for civlians until UNAMIR at full strength; says country's humanitarian crisis a threat to regional stability; stresses forces's impartiality; calls for resources to speed UNAMIR's deployment.

+ Fifth Committee approves draft decisions by which General Assembly would request Secretary-General to prepare draft programme budget on critical economic recovery and development of Africa.

+ Advisory panel of government officials, social scientists and economists meets tomorrow in New York, to discuss goals of next year's World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen.

+ Secretary-General in letter to Security Council, reports on compensation payments to Iraqi citizens relocated from Kuwait to Iraq; 56 million Iraqi dinars for 95 farms; 15.5 million dinars for 206 residential houses.

+ UNAMIR Force Commander unable to open Kigali airport without assurances from Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) forces; 40 French-speaking military observers sent overland to Nairobi.

+ Secretary-General welcomes commitment by Netherlands of military units for the United Nations Stand-By Arrangements System.

+ Chemical Destruction Group at Muthanna, concludes its activities; mandate of Special Commission set up by Security Council to eliminate Iraq's declared chemical weapons stockpile fufilled.

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Determining that the magnitude of the humanitarian crisis in Rwanda was a threat to peace and stability in the region, the Security Council today agreed that a multinational operation be set up there until the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) was brought up to necessary strength. The operation will contribute to the security and protection of displaced

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persons, refugees and civilians in that country. Acting under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, the Council limited the operation to two months, unless the Secretary-General determined at an earlier date, that the expanded UNAMIR was able to carry out its mandate. In adopting resolution 929 (1994), with 10 votes in favour and 5 abstentions, the Council stressed the operation's strictly humanitarian character and its impartial and neutral nature.

The Council demanded that all parties to the conflict in Rwanda end the systematic and widespread killings of civilians in areas under their control, and allow the multinational operation to fulfill its mission. The Council called on Member States to respond urgently to the Secretary-General's request for resources, including logistical support, so that UNAMIR could carry out its mandate as soon as possible. It welcomed offers already made for equipment and troops, and called on other Member States to offer such support including equipment to specific troop contributors, to speed up UNAMIR's expanded force deployment.

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The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) yesterday approved a draft by which the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to prepare a draft programme budget section by 10 July, on the critical economic recovery and development of Africa. By the draft, the Assembly would also include proposals for the redeployment of resources to benefit the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. It would request the Secretary-General to submit proposals for additional resources allocated to the New Agenda in the context of the proposed programme budget for 1996-1997.

By the terms of a second draft resolution on the decentralization of energy and natural resources activities, the Assembly would endorse the proposals in the Secretary-General's report. They include a redeployment of posts and resources from the Department of Development Support and Management Services to the five regional economic commissions. The Secretary-General would also be requested to review the question of decentralization and report to the Committee for Programme and Coordination and to the Assembly at its fiftieth session.

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A 16-member advisory panel of government officials, social scientists and economists will meet in New York tomorrow to discuss next year's World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali invited the advisers, representing a broad spectrum of views, to contribute ideas on how to prepare for the Summit. Known as the Advisory Group on the World Summit for Social Development, the panel is one in a series of forums in the year-long preparatory process for the Summit. A second Preparatory Committee will meet at Headquarters from 22 August to 2 September.

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The Secretary-General has called the Summit a priceless opportunity to address the underlying causes of violence and stress in the world, noting that "there is a prevailing sense of social disorder" in rich and poor countries alike. The panelists will address questions about the Summit and its objectives, including evidence of a global social crisis, and international solutions. They will also consider whether it is possible to fashion global economic policies with an eye to furthering social objectives.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has officially informed Kuwait of the compensation payments to Iraqi citizens relocated from Kuwait to Iraq as a result of the demarcation of the international boundary between the two States. In a letter to the Security Council dated 20 June, he said that after an assessment by an independent contractor, the total amount of compensation would be 56 million Iraqi dinars for 95 farms, and 15.5 million Iraqi dinars for 206 residential houses. Individual payments would be determined in accordance with the recommendations of the independent contractor.

The Secretary-General expressed his appreciation to the Governments of Iraq and Kuwait for their cooperation with the Force Commander of United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) in facilitating the relocations.

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United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) Force Commander Major-General Romeo Dallaire, was unable to open Kigali airport today, because the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) forces, who control the area, failed to give the necessary assurances. However, General Dallaire sent more than 40 French speaking military observers from Senegal, Togo and the Congo, overland to Nairobi, according to a United Nations spokesman. Replacements for the observers were expected to travel to Kigali by the same route, possibly as early as tomorrow.

Fighting in Kigali was very heavy throughout last night, the spokesman said. Two of the ten armoured personnel carriers being brought from Somalia arrived in the capital late yesterday and final arrangements were being made to being into Rwanda some 200 soldiers from Ghana and a company from Zimbabwe.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has welcomed the announcement by the Netherlands that it will commit military units for the United Nations Stand-By Arrangements System. He met yesterday with the Netherlands Defense Minister to discuss details of the offer, acording to a spokesman for the Organization. The Stand-by Arrangements system was first called for by the Secretary-General in his report, "An Agenda for Peace", so that the months it normally took to get a peace-keeping operation under way could be shortened considerably.

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The Chemical Destruction Group at Muthanna has concluded its activities. This ends a unique multinational undertaking and fulfills the mandate of the Special Commission set up by the Security Council to eliminate Iraq's declared chemical weapons stockpile. The two-year operation, involving some 100 experts from 23 countries destroyed over 480,000 litres of chemical warfare agents, and over 28,000 chemical munitions ranging from rockets and artillery shells, to bombs and ballistic missile warheads.

Two Chemical Weapons inspection teams were deployed to Iraq between 31 May and 14 June in order to make a final assessment of the status of the Commission's chemical destruction operations at Al Muthanna. They were to confirm that the destruction of declared chemical warfare agents, their precursors and certain production equipment was complete and that those areas of the site used for the destruction operations had been left in a safe and acceptable manner. At the end of the inspection activities, responsibility for the site was formally handed back to the Iraqi authorities.

The inspection teams carried out a joint survey of the former Al Muthanna State establishment with Iraqi representatives and provided them with complete documentation of all destruction activities carried out by the Chemical Destruction Group over the past two years.

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